

Message Text

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ORIGIN SMI-01

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R 161353Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL, UK

SUBJECT: SMITHSONIAN FOLKLINE FESTIVAL

REF: STATE245518, 16 OCTOBER 1975

1. AFTER RIPLEY/RAMSBOOTHAM PHONE CONVERSATION,
RINZLER/SANDERSON MEETING, BRITISH EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED
SOME ENCOURAGEMENT FROM LONDON THAT BRITISH AIRWAYS WOULD
CONSIDER FAVORABLY A REQUEST FOR FREE OR REDUCED FARES
FOR BRITISH FOLK ARTISTS PARTICIPATING IN BICENTENNIAL
FESTIVAL. THIS WOULD APPLY TO HEADINGTON TEAM LED BY
S.A. MATTHEWS AND 14 OTHER INDIVIDUAL FOLK ARTISTS
SELECTED BY A.L. LLOYD AND LLOYD HIMSELF.

2. THIS PROCESS FOLLOWS BRITISH APPLICATION OF IATA
RESOLUTION 200G. AFTER FOLK TEAMS SUBMIT REQUEST TO
BRITISH AIRWAYS, BA APPLIES TO GOVERNMENT FOR DIRECTIVE TO
COMPLY. WHEN GOVERNMENT PROVIDES SUCH DIRECTIVE, BA "MAY
BE PREPARED" TO CONSIDER FAVORABLY. AT LEAST ONE OTHER
COUNTRY BELIEVED TO BE USING THIS METHOD TO PROVIDE
ROUNDTRIP AIRFARE FOR ITS PARTICIPANTS.

3. USIS REQUESTED TO INFORM MATTHEWS AND LLOYD OF ABOVE.
THEY SHOULD APPLY TO CHIEF BRITISH AIRWAYS TICKET OFFICE
IN LONDON FOR FREE TICKETS. ARRIVAL WASHINGTON JULY 4
DESIRABLE BUT SMITHSONIAN AGREEABLE TO THEIR ARRIVAL JULY
2ND, 3RD, 4TH, OR 5TH, AT WASHINGTON, BALTIMORE,
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PHILADELPHIA OR NEW YORK, IN ONE, TWO OR THREE COMPONENTS

IF AIRLINE CONSIDERS THIS MORE FEASIBLE. TRUST MATTHEWS
AND LLOYD WILL REPORT BACK TO USIS IN CASE ANY ADDITIONAL
SUPPORT NEEDED.

4. POST-FESTIVAL TOUR CANNOT BE FUNDED. PARTICIPANTS
CAN RETURN JULY 12TH OR 13TH. ROBINSON

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